

Kuntz and his family in the 1960's. He and his family lived in the small community of Custer, Montana. They farmed small grain, sugar beets and fed cattle. It was a typical diversified farming operation found on the many irrigation projects along the Yellowstone River.

Ed was a little different. He was not only of the land but was of the people who lived on the land and called it home. Just another average American of the silent Americans who served this country when asked and served his community when no one else would. Average? Not at all. Nothing could be further from the truth.

His service to his community and neighbors did not stop at the county line. He was an excellent farmer and stockman. His love and respect for the sugar industry took him to national leadership where he was one of their most respected leaders. With the demands on the farm and dedication to a family, he still found time to work for the sugar beet industry not only for himself but his neighbors. I know first hand the impact he had on this town of Washington as he represented the many sugar growers across the country.

He was born May 3, 1926 in Billings, Montana. He was educated and graduated from Custer High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps and trained as a gunner on a B-17. While on furlough, he married his high school sweetheart, Peg Quesset. This December they would have been celebrating being married 56 years.

Ed became a director on the Mountain States Beet Growers Association and served 35 years on that board. He was treasurer for more years than anybody can count and president for 10 years. He also served on the board of directors of the American Sugar Beet Association in Washington, D.C. and devoted many hours away from the farming operation and family.

He is survived by his wife, Peg of Custer, Montana, a daughter, Belva; 2 sons, Rick and Cody.

By paying our respect to Ed Kuntz, we acknowledge the unsung leaders across this land who silently build a nation every day. He was just one that has been described as being a part of the greatest generation.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ANTHONY ZINNI, USMC (RET.)

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to General Anthony Zinni, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his completion of a successful tour of duty as Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, and his retirement from active duty after 36 years of loyal service. I offer these remarks with great respect for General Zinni, a true American patriot and a Marine's Marine.

General Zinni is a remarkable individual, a distinguished combat soldier,

and an inspiring, uncompromising leader. During his 36 year military career, General Zinni's intellect, candor, and unshakeable optimism have had a profound, positive influence on the U.S. Armed Forces from the Quang Nam province of Vietnam to the sheikdoms of the Middle East, and a hundred points in between. A life long adventure that began in a small Pennsylvania town on the banks of the Schuylkill River has taken him around the world and to the top echelons of military leadership.

A first generation American, General Zinni began his service to the nation in 1961. His father, Antonio Zinni, who immigrated from Italy and fought for his adopted country in the trenches of France in World War I, and his mother, Lilla, instilled in General Zinni an unconditional devotion to the principles of American freedom and liberty and a profound respect for military service. On his first day of classes at Villanova University, with the lessons of his parents in mind, General Zinni joined the Marine Corps. From the Augustinians and the Marine Corps Drill Instructors, General Zinni developed an intellectual prowess and professional military acumen that would distinguish him as a "cut above" throughout his career.

Beginning with two combat tours in Vietnam, General Zinni embarked on a series of assignments that reflect the myriad missions to which the military has been deployed in the latter part of the 20th Century—combat operations, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping and peace enforcement. Following Vietnam, General Zinni participated in humanitarian relief operations in the Philippines and in Northern Iraq. He commanded U.S. military forces in Somalia and also commanded the task force responsible for safeguarding the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeeping forces from Somalia in 1995.

In August 1997, General Zinni, recognized as one of the most operationally competent, most experienced and most versatile military leaders in uniform, was selected by the President to be the Commander in Chief of United States Central Command. Following a unanimous confirmation vote by this chamber, General Zinni spent the next three years representing the United States and ensuring the security of U.S. interests in one of the most challenging areas of the world.

As many of my colleagues are aware, United States Central Command encompasses a region that includes 25 nations, extending from Egypt and the Horn of Africa through the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States, to the newly independent central Asian nations and Pakistan. While abundant in cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, these same enriching features are also the source of deep-rooted, historic animosities—animosities within the region and toward the United States. Guided by his imperative to genuinely understand the unique perspective of a society and his desire to work with the

people of the region, General Zinni earned the respect and administration of the area's national leaders. There is no question that he was the right man in the right place at the right time.

While we acknowledge the long list of General Zinni's accolades, we recognize that the challenges of military life are most successfully accomplished as a team effort. General Zinni's wife, Debbie, and their children Lisa, Tony, and Maria have shared the challenges and rewards of General Zinni's military life. The journey which brought General Zinni to Central Command, the hallmark of his distinguished military career, would not have been possible without the unconditional and loving support of his family.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I congratulate you and your family for your service to the Nation, the Armed Forces and to the Marine Corps. Semper Paratus! General, as a former Maine, I salute you on the floor of the U.S. Senate.●

IDAHO'S OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate two Idaho athletes who have made America proud in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Stacy Dragila from Pocatello, Idaho soared to the top of her sport, bringing home the gold medal. She pole vaulted fifteen feet, one inch in Sydney, Australia on September 25th. Stacy deserves recognition because she is more than an athlete. She gives back to her sport by working as an assistant track coach at Idaho State University.

Idahoan Charles Burton is another Idaho Olympian. He finished his round of wrestling competition on October first, coming in at fifth place. Charles wrestled at Centennial High School in Boise and Boise State University. He has been called the "U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team's most hidden gem," and I'm proud he represented our gem state in Sydney.

The hard work and determination of Idaho's Olympic Athletes is an inspiration to us all. They have demonstrated the best of our State and our Nation, and I am proud to congratulate both Stacy and Charles for their personal achievement and the honor in which each represented Idaho and the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL GUTHRIE

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Lowell Guthrie for his commitment to higher education, and his generosity to the students at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

I have had the privilege of knowing Lowell for many years and have witnessed his compassion for others on numerous occasions. Lowell has a kind heart and a giving spirit, and he constantly thinks of ways to improve the quality of life for others. Lowell has